

Comments on N2021-1

May 22, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC): I am an American who believes the Postal Service is an essential government service. This service is even created by the U. S. Constitution. I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Postal System that would further degrade service and standards.

The Universal Service provided by the Postal Service requires the survival of a public agency the people of this country can rely on. The private sector is answerable to no one other than shareholders and can raise rates at any time to any level it believes it can sustain. I know that USPS has been burdened by costs no other government agency carries in terms of pension obligations and an expectation that it turns a profit as if it were indeed a private sector business.

Everyone knows that the pandemic has worsened processing and delivery problems that already existed. Mail has been slower since the Postal Service was required to retire without replacement a lot of sorting equipment. Before the changes the regular carrier was able to deliver the mail reliably and timely. But further cuts to service will only worsen the situation.

I ask the PRC to study what would make the USPS once again viable, reliable and efficient by examining various and hybrid ways to pay for it. Americans want their Post Office to survive and no one is asking us how much we would be willing to pay for a first-class stamp for something we can be sure will arrive in a timely manner. If it is determined that the price of a first-class stamp needs to go up too high is what it would take, then Congress can take up the question of providing additional funding or eliminating some of the ridiculously long future pension funding requirements.

This proposed 10-year plan will create a death spiral. Declining service will mean declining use. While I personally may have options for paying bills, banking and other necessary communications, many people do not. If you approve this plan, you should be honest enough to acknowledge that you are knowingly killing what is arguably our oldest original Constitutional public government agency.

Yours truly,

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